

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 11391 271348Z

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO USIA WASHDC

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USIAC

FOR INA UASTIN

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: AMERICAN LIBRARY IN BANGALORE

REF: STATE 104450

1. SUBSEQUENT TO OUR AUGUST 7 MEETING WITH ICCR SECRETARY KOCHAR, SHE INFORMED ME THAT, AS AGREED, SHE HAD DISCUSSED THE IDEA OF AN AMERICAN LIBRARY IN BANGALORE WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY KEWAL SINGH AND THAT HE THOUGHT THIS "A GOOD IDEA."

2. ACCORDINGLY, THE AMBASSADOR INTENDS TO SEND A LETTER TO KEWAL SINGH AND AUGUST 29 OFFICIALLY PROPOSING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AMERICAN LIBRARY IN BANGALORE OPERATED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE ICCR THROUGH A GRANT FROM USIS, PROVIDED OUR REQUIREMENT FOR SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT CAN BE MET. THE LETTER WILL SUGGEST THAT USIS AND ICCR WORK OUT THE DETAILS IN TIME TO PERMIT PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PROJECT IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

3. THE NEAR-FUTURE ANNOUNCEMENT MIGHT PROFITABLY BE MADE DURING THE COURSE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S COMING VISIT HERE, IF THAT PROVES AGREEABLE TO HIM.

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 11391 271348Z

4. " OUR REQUIREMENTS" ARE THOSE WHICH WE MENTIONED DURING OUR

LUNCHEON DISCUSSION WITH MRS. KOCHAR--USIS FREEDOM IN THE SELECTION OF SITE, STAFF AND BOOKS, AS WELL AS ACCESS TO THE INSTALLATION AND TO FISCAL AND LIBRARY REPORTS. YOU WILL RECALL THAT KOCHAR WAS FORTHCOMING ON ALL OF THESE.

5. WE HAVE DEVELOPED A SCENARIO WHICH FORESEES AN OFFICIAL OPENING IN SEPTEMBER 1975. THIS WOULD ALLOW, IF NECESSARY, SOME DOLLAR-FUNDED PURCHASES OF PERIODICALS AND REFERENCE WORKS OUT OF 1976 FUNDS.

6. MEANWHILE, WE EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO FUND THE LEASE AND FIX-UP COSTS OUT OF THIS YEAR'S RUPEE BUDGET, PROVIDED THAT BUDGET IS NOT CUT. (SAVINGS FROM OUR NON-PARTICIPATION IN THE CANCELLED INDFAIR-74 HELP.) WE HAVE ALSO GROWN MORE SANGUINE ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF RUPEE-FUNDED IMPORTATION OF MANY OF THE LIBRARY BOOKS BY AIR, AND BELIEVE TO HAVE FOUND A RELIABLE BOOK DEALER TO DO THIS. FINALLY WE CAN SQUEEZE ABOUT \$10,000 OUT OF THIS YEAR'S DOLLAR FUNDS (BY REDUCTION IN AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT PURCHASES) TO PERMIT AN INITIAL ORDER FOR REFERENCE WORKS AND PERIODICALS.

7. NEVERTHELESS, WE WILL NEED (THROUGH A SUPPLEMENT TO THIS YEAR'S DOLLAR FUNDS OR FROM FY '76 FUNDS) TO COVER A ONE-TIME BOOK STOCK COST OF UP TO \$40,000. (A FIGURE WHICH MAY BE REDUCED VIA THE RUPEE ROUTE, AS MENTIONED ABOVE). AS TO ON-GOING COSTS, WE ESTIMATE \$10,000 ANNUALLY FOR BOOKS, PERIODICALS AND OTHER STATE-SIDE PURCHASES AND A LIKE AMOUNT IN RUPEES TO COVER THE GRANT TO ICCR FOR SALARIES, REND AND UP-KEEP.

8. THE OVERALL POLITICAL AS WELL AS SPECIFIC USIS PROGRAM BENEFITS TO BE DERIVED FROM OPENING AN AMERICAN LIBRARY ARE CLEAR. THE ON-GOING COSTS ARE ABSORBABLE WITHIN THE USIS INDIA BUDGET.

9. I WOULD HOPE THEREFORE THAT WE CAN AGREE SOMEHOW TO FIND THE ELUSIVE \$40,000 IN THE MONTHS AHEAD AND PROCEED WITH THE NEXT STEP-- THE AMBASSADOR'S LETTER TO KEWAL SINGH--WHICH NEEDS TO BE SENT NOW IF THE AGENCY IS TO MAKE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH INDIA IN THE FRAMEWORK OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT.

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PAGE 03 NEW DE 11391 271348Z

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